

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1–3, 7, and 8 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Attached hereto as an Appendix entitled “Version with Markings Showing Changes Made,” is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this Amendment.

Claims 1–2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yukinobu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,411,792). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yukinobu. However, the present invention’s “transparent conductive film [is] made of a metal oxide having a specific resistance of 3.0×10^{-4} ohm-cm or less, formed by a vacuum deposition method.” (Claim 1) Whereas, Yukinobu’s transparent conductive film is made of a binding resin having ultra-fine particles of indium-tin oxide dispersed therein (Column 5, Lines 14-20), rather than the present invention’s metal oxide film. Yukinobu’s film also exhibits a specific resistance between 6×10^{-3} and 5×10^{-2} ohm-cm (Claim 1), which is far greater

than the 3.0×10^{-4} ohm-cm or less claimed in the present invention. Further, Yukinobu's film is produced using a printing method (Column 2, Lines 35-40), rather than the vacuum deposition method of the present invention. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Yukinobu fails to anticipate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokinobu in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent 5,155,005). Sato is relied upon solely to meet the present invention's color filter layer limitation. However, since dependent claim 6 inherits the limitations of independent claim 1, the rejection based on the additional reference to Sato should be withdrawn in view of the foregoing discussion.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokinobu in view of Oka et al. (U.S. Patent 5,747,152). Oka is relied upon solely to meet the present invention's hardened resin layer limitation. However, since dependent claim 8 inherits the limitations of independent claim 1, the rejection based on the additional reference to Oka should be withdrawn in view of the foregoing discussion.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix
Version with Markings Showing Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

—1. (Twice Amended) A method for transferring a transparent conductive film onto one surface of a sheet base material made of a plastic material, wherein said transparent conductive film as an object to be transferred is preliminarily formed on a substrate which is superior in heat resistance to the plastic material, said transparent conductive film being sandwiched between a peelable layer which can be peeled off at the time of transfer and a protective film for protecting said transparent conductive film on said substrate which is superior in heat resistance to the plastic material; said transparent conductive film being made of a metal oxide having a specific resistance of 3.0×10^4 ohm-cm or less, formed by a vacuum deposition method.—

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